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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUDAPEST 000866

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR RPM AND EUR/CE JAMIE MOORE. PLEASE PASS TO  
NSC JEFF HOVENIER.

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/29/2014

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [MARR](#) [AF](#) [HU](#)

SUBJECT: HUNGARIAN VIEWS ON USG OFFER TO EMBED CIVILIAN  
EXPERTS IN HUNGARIAN PRT

Classified By: Political Officer Jon Martinson, reasons 1.4 (b,d)

11. (C) In mid-November, MOD Policy State Secretary Jozsef Bali provided PolOff copies of an unclassified cable and a draft U.S. MOU received from Hungary's Ambassador in Kabul, Sandor Matyus. Matyus' reporting cable addressed a request initiated by Embassy Kabul to embed four USG civilian personnel, one from the Department of Agriculture and three from USAID, in the Hungarian PRT in Baghlan province.

12. (C) Ambassador Matyus reported that he welcomed the U.S. proposal to strengthen the civilian component in the PRT, which he noted is currently weak. Matyus reported that he told the USG representatives that expansion of the PRT has long been a Hungarian agenda item, but financial constraints, as well as physical space have been key unresolved issues. While commenting that the American presence might diminish Hungary's role to some extent and may increase security concerns, Matyus reported that he "personally supports the American initiative." However, Matyus stated that "the U.S. party could not digest why they have to discuss such an Afghan issue in Budapest," and he requested guidance as to what he should tell his Embassy Kabul contacts.

13. (C) In a follow-up meeting, State Secretary Bali told PolOff that the MOD Legal Department reviewed the draft MOU and determined that there are no legal impediments to implementing the proposal. However, Bali raised several issues that he said would have to be resolved before moving forward on the proposal. These include, but are not limited to: additional space requirements, which Bali said would require expansion of the current PRT boundary; security responsibility for the USG personnel beyond the PRT perimeter; and financial support issues.

14. (C) Although Bali provided the draft proposal for information only, Embassy Budapest stands ready to assist Embassy Kabul in moving the process forward.  
LEVINE